IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. Serial No.:

10/734,670

Confirmation No.: 6280

Applicant

Richard S. Ginn

Filing Date

12/11/03

Title

NEEDLE APPARATUS FOR CLOSING SEPTAL DEFECTS AND METHODS FOR

USING SUCH APPARATUS

Group Art Unit:

3734

Examiner

Mendoza, Michael G.

Docket No.

15997.4002 (formerly 704117.4006)

Customer No.

34313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the claims as follows:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks are on page 16.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that I have reasonable basis to expect that that this paper or fee (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) was transmitted electronically to Mail Stop Amendment. Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450. Alexandria. VA 22313-1450.

Dated: November 1, 2006

OHS West:260112320.1 15997-4002 M5S/M5S